

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, later today we will be taking up the rule and ultimately the bill on ed flex. I believe in having flexibility at the local level, but I think here we are getting the cart before the horse. We are forgetting that there ought to be accountability and a number of other pieces we ought to be dealing with before we give total flexibility.

Let me tell my colleagues why. I served as superintendent. There we required the local systems to identify subgroups. If you do not identify the subgroups, to children who are doing the poorest in the schools, and that is what the Federal money is designed to do, what you do is you mask the children with the greatest needs, and here we are talking about lumping all that money together and sending it down.

I trust the educators, I trust the parents, and I trust the teachers. The people I do not trust are the politicians.

□ 1030

I was there, and they will take that money, and if we do not watch them, the children with the greatest needs will be the children who are going to be left behind in the 21st century. We will pay a price for that, Mr. Speaker.

NOT NECESSARILY A CORRELATION BETWEEN MONEY AND SUCCESS IN EDUCATION

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, education is everybody's priority. I do not think there is probably any issue in this House that could bring us together on a bipartisan basis more than improving education.

But what have we learned from history? Mr. Speaker, there was a recent article in a responsible and respected financial paper which rated the schools in America, and it also showed how much money was spent in each of those schools. I want to tell my colleagues there is not necessarily a correlation between money and success in education.

We need, yes, money to the classrooms, not to the bureaucrats. Yes, we need good teachers, not just 100,000 more. Yes, we need to make decisions at the local level, not here in Washington, and then we have to call on the families to send well fed, clean, rested children to school so they can learn.

Part of the responsibility, a major part, must rest with us, the parents.

SUPPORT ED FLEX

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, as the parent of a third grader in public schools in Oregon, I am absolutely committed to smaller class sizes. But the best way to do that is to fund the special education mandate, not to create more federal mandates and programs.

Coming from Oregon, which is one of the ed flex pilot States, I can tell my colleagues that our local parents, teachers and school boards can make the best decisions for our children, but it is time Washington kept its word and funded its mandates. I think unfunded federal mandates have done quite enough harm already to our public schools. It is time to expand ed flex all Americans. It is time to allow local schools to make their own decision about how best to spend Federal education dollars. That only makes sense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the ed flex legislation that will be on the House floor later today.

DEMOCRATS OBJECT TO IMPROVING EDUCATION WITHOUT MORE FEDERAL REGULATION

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I am incredulous at some of the comments of my friends from the other side, from the Democratic side, who continue to talk about education as being improved or the possibility of it being improved with just more regulation, the fear that if we gave freedom to the educators who we know, the people who teach our children, to the principals of the schools in which our children go to school; if we gave them more freedom, somehow or other our children would suffer as a result of it. I am amazed at that kind of an argument.

For years as a teacher, Mr. Speaker, I taught children, and I sat in classrooms and in faculty lounges with other teachers who continually talked about the fact that they needed and demanded more freedom, that they were impeded in their ability to teach because of the regulations we place on them, both the State and Federal level.

So here we come, finally forward with a plan to give those teachers and those principals the freedom to actually teach children in the ways that they know work, and all of a sudden the Democrats in this body rise up, unanimously almost, to object to that.

This is very peculiar indeed, Mr. Speaker, very peculiar.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of

the Journal and the question on the motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 540, the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments of 1999, postponed from Tuesday, March 9.

Votes on motions to suspend the rules on H.R. 808, House Resolution 32 and House Concurrent Resolution 28 postponed from yesterday will be taken later.

THE JOURNAL

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 356, nays 39, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 34]

YEAS—356

Abercrombie	Cannon	Evans
Ackerman	Capuano	Everett
Allen	Cardin	Ewing
Andrews	Carson	Farr
Archer	Castle	Fletcher
Armey	Chabot	Foley
Bachus	Chambliss	Forbes
Baird	Chenoweth	Fossella
Baker	Clayton	Fowler
Baldacci	Clement	Frank (MA)
Baldwin	Clyburn	Franks (NJ)
Ballenger	Coburn	Frelinghuysen
Barcia	Collins	Galleghy
Barr	Combest	Ganske
Barrett (NE)	Condit	Gejdenson
Barrett (WI)	Conyers	Gekas
Bartlett	Cook	Gibbons
Barton	Cox	Gillmor
Bass	Coyne	Gilman
Bateman	Cramer	Gonzalez
Bentsen	Crowley	Goode
Bereuter	Cubin	Goodlatte
Berkley	Cummings	Goodling
Berman	Cunningham	Goss
Berry	Danner	Graham
Biggert	Davis (FL)	Granger
Bilirakis	Davis (IL)	Green (TX)
Bishop	Davis (VA)	Green (WI)
Blagojevich	Deal	Greenwood
Bliley	DeGette	Hall (OH)
Blumenauer	Delahunt	Hall (TX)
Blunt	DeLauro	Hansen
Boehner	DeLay	Hastings (WA)
Bonilla	Deutsch	Hayworth
Bonior	Diaz-Balart	Herger
Bono	Dickey	Hill (IN)
Boswell	Dicks	Hill (MT)
Boyd	Dingell	Hilleary
Brady (TX)	Doggett	Hinojosa
Brown (FL)	Dooley	Hobson
Brown (OH)	Doolittle	Hoefel
Bryant	Dreier	Hoekstra
Burr	Duncan	Holden
Burton	Dunn	Holt
Buyer	Edwards	Hooley
Callahan	Ehlers	Horn
Calvert	Ehrlich	Houghton
Camp	Emerson	Hoyer
Campbell	Eshoo	Hunter
Canady	Etheridge	Hutchinson